

Canberra

August 20, 1957

Wray  
Dear Bob & Mari:

We hope all is turning out well for you at this point. Your letter of the 12th arrived yesterday, obviously having crossed mine on the ms.

Since our arrival here Saturday afternoon, our outlook on Australia improved greatly, as we had a succession of bright sunny days that remind us of Indian Summer at home. We are staying at "University House" in a private flat, quite the plushest place we have ever seen — e.g. heated bathroom floors. (As you probably gathered we were rather unlucky in the Sydney weather.) Phyllis Rountree drove us here on Saturday afternoon and we have mixed sightseeing with some hard business since then. Monday, we had a 'Symposium on Genetics of Bacterial and Viral Genetics'; tonight I will speak again for the Genetics Society.... The Jahn Curtin School for Medical Research, where Fenner is Professor of Microbiology, is one of the most luxurious research institutes I've ever seen & the buildings have just opened, and the Symposium was the first formal function. Fenner's doing some very exciting work here on recombination in poxviruses.

The town is full of wide open spaces, of course, but Esther and I are quite taken by it, and could very well imagine living quite happily here.

Syd's in fine fettle; spending quite some time in pursuing various leads a propos your arrangements. I was surprised to notice that you were still applying for the ~~xxx~~ French scholarship, but even 300,000 francs (you wrote 30,000) would be grossly inadequate. Before the devaluation, 1000 f. was about £1 stlg. My impression was that you had definitely given that up in favor of returning to Australia by Xmas. Please keep us (especially Syd!) informed of your plans.

I don't see any point in your leaving your lab notes, do you? Everything any possible later student might need should be in the thesis; if you can think of anything else, an annex would be appreciated.

but figured that Astri would do better to wait till she got here before acquiring possessions.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg